



Michigan Crop Weather

Slow Planting Progress

Three days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 17, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation ranged from 0.67 inches to 1.39 inches in the Upper Peninsula and 0.31 to 0.65 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 1 to 4 degrees below normal in the Upper Peninsula, and temperatures in the Lower Peninsula ranged from normal to 2 degrees below normal. Wet weather and cold soil temperatures continued to delay some spring field activities. Where conditions allowed, field activities reported included manure hauling, tillage of lighter soils, fertilizer applications, sugarbeet planting, alfalfa seeding, and asparagus crown harvesting.

Field Crops

Growers were busy with early spring activities. Growers applied fertilizer where field conditions allowed. Manure hauling was common on livestock operations. **Sugarbeet** planting began Monday, April 11 with one field in Sebewaing. Planting continued through the week. **Oat** and **barley** planting and alfalfa seeding began in southern areas of the State. Progress has been slow. **Wheat** has broken dormancy in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula. Field operations were slowed at the end of the week due to rain and snow.

Soil moisture for week ending 04/17/11

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	3	64	33
Subsoil	0	7	77	16

Crop condition for week ending 04/17/11

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Pasture	10	20	27	39	4
Winter Wheat	1	4	26	52	17

Fruit

No substantial tree, vine, or bush damage from low winter temperatures has been reported. Development this spring has not advanced to where fruit flower buds have been susceptible to any cold weather that has prevailed.

Vegetables

Precipitation toward the end of the week delayed field activities as growers continued to prepare equipment for planting and perform fieldwork as conditions allowed. In the west central area, **asparagus** crown harvest was finishing up. Planting is expected to begin next week if weather allows. Planting of **carrots** and other crops were delayed because of wet soil conditions.

Crop progress for week ending 04/17/11

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley, planted	2	0	32	14
Barley, emerged	1	0	2	0
Oats, planted	14	3	70	33
Oats, emerged	2	1	25	7
Sugarbeets, planted	12	0	95	41

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 04/17/11 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2011	2010	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	64	25		32	85		0.60	1.48	1.94	1.90		
Marquette	63	22		34	83		0.69	1.69	2.31	2.23		
Stephenson	63	25		40	106		1.18	1.81	2.04	2.04		
Western UP	64	21	-4	32	87	28	0.67	1.55	1.96	1.93	1.22	2.28
Cornell	59	24		20	92		1.28	1.85	2.22	2.16		
Sault St Marie	61	26		17	76		1.24	1.87	2.42	2.41		
Eastern UP	62	19	-1	19	80	10	1.39	2.09	2.54	2.51	1.27	2.43
Beulah	63	30		50	115		0.51	3.36	4.75	3.73		
Lake City	67	19		45	111		0.91	2.21	3.38	2.92		
Old Mission	68	28		45	120		0.73	1.45	1.96	1.83		
Pellston	69	23		44	107		0.97	1.75	2.12	2.07		
Northwest	71	19	-1	43	110	35	0.64	1.87	2.61	2.23	1.47	2.69
Alpena	66	23		33	103		0.64	1.95	2.80	2.39		
Houghton Lake	70	25		48	115		0.53	1.65	3.16	2.37		
Rogers City	56	26		17	100		0.66	2.02	2.39	2.39		
Northeast	70	23	-2	36	111	32	0.65	1.78	2.97	2.45	1.38	2.52
Fremont	73	29		56	126		0.48	1.14	2.54	1.91		
Hart	71	28		54	121		0.48	0.88	1.90	1.41		
Muskegon	64	32		54	132		0.56	0.72	2.40	1.64		
West Central	73	28	0	54	127	46	0.53	0.97	2.24	1.66	1.61	3.16
Alma	67	30		40	130		0.28	0.40	3.27	1.60		
Big Rapids	69	28		36	127		0.70	1.03	1.96	1.03		
Central	75	27	-2	44	129	51	0.41	0.71	2.07	1.27	1.50	3.07
Bad Axe	65	30		44	141		0.37	1.19	3.98	2.64		
Pigeon	72	29		47	135		0.30	1.71	2.31	2.12		
Saginaw	75	31		55	146		0.34	0.39	2.74	1.94		
Standish	67	25		41	131		0.68	0.78	2.54	2.26		
East Central	75	25	-2	43	136	50	0.51	1.04	2.80	2.07	1.23	2.55
Fennville	75	30		66	163		0.44	1.21	2.04	1.42		
Grand Rapids	77	32		71	165		0.50	0.91	2.37	1.58		
Holland	75	34		104	170		0.60	1.38	2.88	1.86		
South Bend, IN	74	31		93	182		0.97	2.34	3.24	2.67		
Watervliet	73	32		71	165		0.65	1.45	2.25	1.68		
Southwest	77	28	0	73	162	62	0.58	1.30	2.32	1.64	1.67	3.41
Belding	75	27		55	138		0.33	0.92	2.00	1.31		
Coldwater	73	29		68	167		0.68	1.71	2.03	1.81		
Lansing	73	29		62	163		0.23	1.11	1.97	1.32		
South Central	75	26	-1	58	153	62	0.48	1.31	2.17	1.56	1.61	3.19
Detroit	73	35		67	181		0.44	1.86	2.43	2.01		
Flint	74	30		64	162		0.29	1.08	2.95	1.65		
Romeo	64	31		48	126		0.33	1.04	1.81	1.47		
Tipton	66	30		63	154		0.48	1.91	2.49	2.03		
Toledo, OH	71	33		60	173		0.35	1.32	2.15	1.56		
Southeast	74	26	0	59	162	56	0.31	1.30	2.04	1.53	1.67	3.21

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.